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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,806	03/09/2004	James H. Mabe	7784-000704US	2080

27572 7590 03/23/2005

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,806

Applicant(s)

MABE, JAMES H.

Examiner

Mark A. Williams

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 32-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 32-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-11, 14-19, 22, and 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 408228910 A ('910). A hinge apparatus comprising a hinge pin 7 formed of a two-way shape memory alloy (SMA) adapted to transition, without an externally applied load, between a first trained shape and a second trained shape upon switching the two-way SMA between a first state and a second state, wherein switching the two-way SMA from the first state to the second state causes the hinge apparatus to apply an opening force to a device coupled to the hinge apparatus, and wherein switching the two-way SMA from the second state to the first state causes the hinge apparatus to apply a closing force to the device coupled to the hinge apparatus. First and second states of austenitic state and martensitic states, responsive to temperature as claimed, are inherent to the design, as known in the art. Twisting of the pin as claimed would inherently

occur. Member 2 is broadly considered a door. The device could be formed by thermal cycling, as claimed. The device can be broadly considered a piano hinge.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent JP 408228910 A ('910). Patent '910 discloses the claimed invention except for the particular range of cycling. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device in such a way, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. Such a modification would solve no stated problem and would have produced no unexpected results.

5. Claims 1-11, 14-19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent JP 2000164309A ('309) in view of Jacot et al., US Patent 6,065,934. Patent '309 provides a hinge apparatus comprising a hinge pin 4 and a member 20 formed of a two-way shape memory alloy (SMA) adapted to transition, without an externally applied load, between a first trained shape and a second trained shape upon switching the two-way SMA between a first state and a second state, wherein switching the two-way SMA from the first state to the second state causes the hinge apparatus to apply an opening force to a device coupled to the hinge apparatus, and wherein switching the two-way SMA from the second state to the first state causes the hinge apparatus to apply a closing force to the device coupled to the hinge apparatus

Patent '309 discloses the claimed invention except for providing teaching of the hinge pin being a torque tube, as claimed. Such a concept is known in the art. Jacot teaches this claimed concept for the purpose of providing pivotal actuation between two hinged members. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to have included in the design of '309 such a modification, as generally taught by Jacot, for the purpose of providing an alternative actuation device for producing desired rotatory motion.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 12/9/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the device of '910 does not appear to teach a two-way SMA as claimed. It is the position of the examiner that such limitations are inherent to the design of '910 since, as stated in the abstract, the device can automatically open and close the hinged device by virtual of the properties of the hinge structure material.

Applicant argues that element 7 of '910 is not a hinge pin. It is the position of the examiner that such an element can be interpreted as a hinge pin, since applicant has claimed no structure to distinguish his invention over the device of '910. The examiner believes that element 7 serves a hinge pin function in that it helps to join to pivoting member together and also facilitation rotation between the two members.

Applicant argues that the device of '910 is for application of low torque. The term "low" is a relative term, and applicant has provided no claimed structural distinction between the device of '910 and his invention.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Williams whose telephone number is (703) 305-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Williams

3/18/05



Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner